

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 are pending; Claims 1, 8, 12, and 13 are canceled; and Claims 2-7 and 9-11 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nihei et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,791,596). In response to this rejection, Claims 1, 8, 12, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 8, 12, and 13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-101 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,791,596, that rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of Claims 1, 8, 12, and 13.

Accordingly, as allowable Claims 2-7 and 9-11 remain pending in the above-identified application, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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